

Fremont NH – 2005 Tax Rate Release Information

We are in receipt of the 2005 tax rates. The Selectmen's Office, with input from the Tax Collector and Superintendent's Office, has prepared this information for you in an effort to assist in your understanding of the 2005 tax rate. The new tax rate, set by the NH Department of Revenue Administration on October 11th, is \$18.45 per thousand. This breaks down as follows:

	2004	2005
Town	\$ 5.12	\$ 2.64
Local School	\$20.68	\$12.68
State School	\$ 4.28	\$ 2.28
County	\$ 1.48	\$ 0.85
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Total.	\$31.56	\$18.45

It is difficult to make comparisons between 2004 and 2005 due to the town-wide revaluation. A key component to the annual setting of the tax rate is the total amount of town assessed valuation. This is the total value of all taxable land and buildings in Fremont. In 2004, the total assessed valuation was \$214,899,427. For 2005, the total assessed valuation rose to \$399,950,562. This increase is due to the revaluation.

Overall, the Town budget decreased in 2005. We did see increases in the number of applications for veterans credits and elderly exemptions; a portion of the cost of the new highway truck, and some general operating budget increases in Executive (increase in hours for the clerical position in the Town Clerk's Office), Personnel Administration (increase in insurance costs), Solid Waste Disposal (increased tonnage of waste). There was also a decrease in revenues from Interest on Investments, due to lower interest rates.

If you have specific questions about the Town's portion of the tax rate, they can be directed to the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall.

Local School increases in the tax rate are related to the following:

- ◇ \$197,915 decrease in State contributions to school funding
- ◇ \$108,556 increase in the Collective Bargaining Agreement – Teachers
- ◇ \$27,509 increase in the Collective Bargaining Agreement – Paraprofessionals
- ◇ \$32,949 increase in transportation costs
- ◇ \$20,820 increase in the operation of plant
- ◇ \$267,503 increase in regular programs (guidance, health, educational media, school board, food service, etc) and special education.

If you have specific questions about the school expenses, you can contact the Fremont School Board, Ellis School, or the Superintendent's Office.

AS IN ALL YEARS, THE LOCAL TAX RATES (TOWN AND LOCAL SCHOOL) ARE A DIRECT REFLECTION OF THE VOTES TAKEN BY THE VOTERS OF FREMONT AT THE ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS IN MARCH.

The State School tax portion decreased by \$8,184. This rate is based on the equalization ratio and the "cost of an adequate education" as determined by the Department of Education based on weighted average daily membership in residence in each school district. Each school district's percentage of total is then calculated. Each percentage is then multiplied by the Town's share of the State education tax amount to allocate a portion of

the state education taxes to each school district. Fremont continues to see less revenue from the State of New Hampshire for education. The difference between the adequate education for each school district and each school district's share of the state education taxes becomes the adequate education grant for each school district. The NH Legislature continues to struggle with the education tax issues, including "donor" versus "receiver" towns. Fremont received less of a grant in 2005 by \$197,915. This shortage is made up in the local school portion of the tax rate.

The portion of the Rockingham County budget attributable to Fremont increased by \$21,417 to a total of \$339,019. Veteran Credits increased from a total of \$72,000 to \$79,500. Elderly and blind exemptions increased by \$80,000 to \$500,000. The elderly exemptions may be revisited at the 2006 annual meeting, to make the amount of the exemption more fitting with the increase in property values.

The tax rate was also affected by an increase in current use values due to the equalization ratio. There was an overall net increase in current use values as all values are estimated now at 100%. There is also new valuation attributable to the new homes, as well as garages, sheds, and other property value improvements. Additions to the tax base help to offset expenditures increases and more evenly balance the tax rate.

The Tax Collector's Office at the Town Hall will be open the following dates and times for payment of taxes:

Thursday November 3, 2005	6:00 to 8:00 pm
Thursday November 10, 2005	6:00 to 8:00 pm
Thursday November 17, 2005	6:00 to 8:00 pm
Tuesday November 22, 2005	9:00 am to 12 noon and 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Thursday December 1, 2005	9:00 am to 12 noon and 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Taxes are due Thursday December 1, 2005.

If you have questions about your assessment, please feel free to stop by the Selectmen's Office and review the records. All property assessing records are public information. You can access the information online at the Vision Appraisal website at www.visionappraisal.com. We send monthly updates to the site, and you can see the most recent date of updates when you log on. The Selectmen's Office is open Monday and Friday 9:00 am to 12 noon; Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am to 12 noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm; and Thursday from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The taxpayer terminal is now operational at the Selectmen's Office, and allows you to access the in-house database from our counter as well.

If you feel that your property is disproportionately assessed, or there are listing errors on your card, you will need to file an abatement. We will publish our entire abatement information sheet in the November newsletter, as well as have it available at the Town Offices and on the town website at www.fremont.nh.gov. Abatement forms are available at the Selectmen's Office, or can be downloaded from the NHBTLA website at <http://www.nh.gov/btla/forms.html>, (*Taxpayers 76:16 Abatement Application to Municipality*) as well as from the Town's website. You need Adobe to download it. You can also call or email the Selectmen's Office and we will send one out to you. Abatement forms are DUE no later than MARCH 1, 2006.

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